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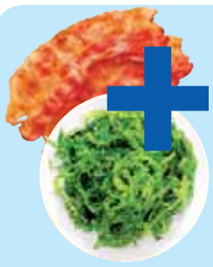

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news
THE TIME CAPSULE EDITION
Monday, December 28, 2015

In 2015, the number of deaths caused by the misadventures of selfie-taking outnumbered fatal shark attacks. The total selfie body count is 12, compared to eight fatal shark attacks.

Vancouver kicked off 2015 with a vacancy rate of 0.5 per cent, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In some neighbourhoods, vacancy dropped to 0.3 per cent. ISTOCK

Syrian refugees arrive at the island of Kos, Greece, after crossing from Turkey in August. Many have been approved for entry to Canada.
ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Much of Vancouver cheered on Oct. 19 when Justin Trudeau won the federal election and became prime minister.
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

CULTURAL EVOLUTION

Big things are happening; we record them in this edition

Jeff Hodson
Metro | Vancouver

METRO'S TIME CAPSULE 2015

SAVE THIS PAPER AND READ IT IN 10 YEARS

Welcome to Metro's Time Capsule. Maybe you're wondering what it is you're holding. Allow me to explain.

This past year, it seemed to us, was a year in which we were on the verge of … something. We couldn't put our finger on exactly what it was, but change was undeniably in the air. We saw it in our cities, in our country and in our world. We saw it on our TVs, laptops and phones. We saw it in Paris, in Ottawa and south of the border. We saw it in how we talked to and treated each other.

In most cases, the changes are for the better: Think of what the Syrian refugees will do to enrich our culture and make our cities more interesting places to live. Think of what the recently signed climate accord could mean.

Consider how big an impact Vancouver's decision to remove the Georgia and Dunsmuir viaducts will have on the future of our city — a chance to build a new neighbourhood in Northeast False Creek.

This summer's lack of rain introduced us to the concept of drought shaming (as well as the incredible hashtag #grasshole) and reminded us of the importance of water conservation in a place lovingly nicknamed Rain City.

We hosted another world-class sporting event in the Women's World Cup and became the first city to regulate marijuana dispensaries.

This year also gave us an exciting peek at our future art gallery (not to mention plans for a giant twirling chandelier under Granville Bridge).

At times like these, the desire to look ahead is matched only by the desire to take stock — to preserve for posterity a world and way of life that won't be entirely familiar to the future. Hence, our Time Capsule. We've collected artifacts that signify some of the momentous changes — also some of the weird and random changes — that are underway or imminent and we've stuffed them into the edition you're holding. On every page you'll find a story about one of them.

It's our duty as journalists to preserve a moment in time, and we hope it will be your pleasure as readers to marvel at a world that has yet to become what it will become.

Save this newspaper. Stuff it in a bottle and send it out at sea. Bury it in your backyard, mark the spot on a map and open it in five years, 10 years, 30 years — you may not believe what you'll read.

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EASING THAT 99 B-LINE PRESSURE

TRANSIT

Crowded bus rides on route to university

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Travelling on the 99 B-Line can feel like a bad joke during rush hour, especially on rainy days where the windows steam up and turn the bus into a sauna, strangers squeeze into impossibly small spaces right next to you and umbrellas drip all over your Metro — if, of course, you were lucky enough to snag a seat and with it the chance to read.

But in the next few years, the extreme crowding on the commuter route from East Van to the University of British Columbia could be a relic of times past if politicians get their way.

This hinges on a massive injection of federal funding to transit in the Lower Mainland, particularly a $2-billion Broadway Subway to Arbutus. Considering an estimated 110,000 trips are made on the B-Line daily, according to the city, officials believe there's demand for a subway that would take many buses and cars off the road by making it easier for people to get around.

Planners estimate half the people will get off before Arbutus, with those continuing to UBC taking (hopefully less crowded) B-Lines the remainder of the trip until funding is secured for an underground train all the way to the university.

While the mayors' 10-year, $7.5-billion plan to build transit across Metro Vancouver failed to pass a referendum on a 0.5 per cent regional sales in spring 2015, the plan remains a spark in the mayors' eyes due to the change in power in Ottawa.

The newly elected Liberal government has promised to increase infrastructure spending by $6 billion a year for the next decade — and newly elected Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi, a former bus driver, said the cash will go to shovel-ready projects first.

That could apply to much of the mayors' ready-to-go plan, which includes two light rail transit lines a total of 27 kilometres long in Surrey, massive bus service increases, a new SeaBus and a new Pattullo Bridge.

It doesn't hurt that during Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's campaign, he promised to spend billions on transit at an announcement on the rooftop of the City of Vancouver's engineering building on Broadway.

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson recently met with Trudeau in Paris at the United Nations Climate Change Conference. Robertson told Metro he specifically asked the Prime Minister for the Broadway Subway.

"We talked about the best next investments in transit and transportation to reduce climate pollution and help relieve congestion as well," Robertson said in late November, adding he hopes for a commitment from the federal government as early as 2016.

There's still a long road before a subway could transform one of the city's busiest and most diverse streets — expect the inevitable construction hassles, business disruption, costs, and public uproar over where the stations should be, and arguments over what developments should go around them.

But pro-transit residents (typically younger, with low to average incomes) might soon look back on the failed 2015 transit referendum as a setback instead of a nail in the coffin for improved transportation.

Passengers crowd onto the 99 B-Line along Broadway. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

INTO THE CAPSULE

The 99 B-Line

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VACANCY RATE DROPS BELOW 1 PER CENT

HOUSING

Council works to boost rental property protections

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Apartment hunters sick of competing with dozens of prospective tenants at open houses for units advertised online often resort to pacing around neighbourhoods searching for "For Rent" signs.

But those hopeful posts are increasingly replaced with text screaming "NO VACANCY" in the City of Vancouver, which kicked off 2015 with a vacancy rate of 0.5 per cent, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In neighbourhoods like the West End and Kitsilano, the vacancy dropped to 0.3 per cent.

This isn't just a problem in the city centre. The entire census metropolitan area, spanning all the way to Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Surrey and the North Shore, had an overall vacancy rate of one per cent. A healthy vacancy rate is between three to four per cent.

View of the Vancouver skyline from Andy Livingstone Park on Monday March 18, 2013. ERIC DREGER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

More than half of City of Vancouver residents are tenants, according to the 2011 census. Yet renters tend to get less attention from governments, and not to get as involved in civic politics, because they don't directly pay the ever-climbing property taxes that inspire homeowners to march to city hall and give politicians an earful.

But the plight of renters grabbed headlines in 2015, when governments promised some action.

The City of Vancouver changed its rules to encourage more two- and three-bedroom units in purpose built rentals in a bid to help families stay in the city. It also created its first Renters' Advisory Committee to dream up fixes for the tenancy system, including B.C.'s Rental Tenancy Act. Its first report received warm reception from council, which moved to strengthen its relocation policy for tenants who get the boot for renovations or demolitions.

The committee also recommended changes to the RTA. They ranged from the simple (allowing renters and landlords to communicate by email) to the complex (tough penalties for landlords who evict tenants under the guise of renovations). The mayor is writing a letter to the province to pitch these changes, but there doesn't yet appear to be much interest in reform.

On a larger scale, the federal government pledged to reinvest in housing. There are some massive patches of government land in the City of Vancouver that are prime for redevelopment, including the Jericho Lands on the west side. Many are calling the government to build social housing and co-operative housing on these valuable properties.

While it remains to be seen how the lands are developed, the need for more supply isn't questioned. CMHC noted that vacancy rates dropped even though more and more purpose-built rentals were created in the region last year.

CMHC hadn't released its year-end data for 2015 at Metro's time of publication.

But the conditions that fuelled the demand for rentals last year — CMHC points to a strong labour market, an increasing number of students, skyrocketing home prices that delay (or prevent) people from buying and a higher net migration to the region — certainly didn't disappear. Indeed, housing prices climbed even higher throughout 2015, with single-family home prices smashing record after record.

INTO THE CAPSULE

A "For Rent" sign

Only time will tell whether "For Rent" signs become a figment of Vancouver's collective imagination or whether 2015 will be recognized as the year in which the scales tipped towards renters.

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The parking lot beside Waterfront Station on the edge of Gastown. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

LAND USE

PAVED PARADISE

END OF TWO PARKING LOTS MAY BE START OF CITY'S NEXT CHAPTER

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Two downtown parking lots, seemingly nothing more than swaths of payment where it's always easy to find a pricy spot, are poised for change that could reshape the entire makeup of Vancouver's city centre.

Plans to rip up the parking lots, one wedged between Waterfront Station and the century-old Landing building on the edge of Gastown and one taking up an entire block at Georgia and Cambie, to put up an office building and art gallery respectively could shift the centre of the city and unlock new neighbourhoods.

First, the parking lot owned by Cadillac Fairview beside the heritage building which is home to the largest transit hub in the region.

The owner wants to build a 26-storey (ish) office tower, described by some as origami and others as "a horror." The property is zoned for a tower so the developer simply needs approval from the urban design panel to build.

But former planners have come out from retirement to lambaste the idea. The site, they say, is the key to unlocking future development atop the railroad tracks.

They've dusted off 2009 plans called the Central Waterfront Hub. It might be hard to imagine anything but a view from the parking lot, but it could instead lead to a major transit concourse, up to 10 new buildings up to 26 storeys high and an extension of Granville Street to the water.

They say Cadillac Fairview's current plans could make or break the future of the hub and are making a fuss to ensure it's done "right." With that moving target in mind, the developer is expected to go back to the urban design panel with new drawings in 2016.

Second, Larwill Park, perhaps better known as the site of the fan zone for the 2015 Women's World Cup.

The $100-million, city-owned land was gifted to the Vancouver Art Gallery to build a new site so long as it secured an extra $150 million from the federal and provincial governments by spring 2015. It didn't, but the city is still offering the land.

The gallery has outgrown its current home in the old courthouse at Robson and Howe, a building that marks the central gathering place for protests and that became the de facto public party plaza during the 2010 Winter Olympics. Moving a few blocks east could shift the centre of the city.

But the gallery still needs $223 million to make its dreams a reality. This seemed like a pie in the sky idea until Oct. 19, when the federal Liberals swept into power.

There's no word on whether the Liberals (federal, not provincial — B.C. has already given $50 million) will inject cash into the project. But 2016 will prove a pivotal year for fundraising, especially with major private art collector Michael Audain opening the Audain Art Museum in Whistler.

Keep an eye on these lots. Commuters might soon miss the views of the North Shore — and drivers may have to search for new parking spots.

INTO THE CAPSULE

An image of new gallery

Designs for the new Vancouver Art Gallery were unveiled this fall. Everyone seemed to have a strong opinion on the pagoda-slash-Inukshuk structure by famous Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron.

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HOPE OF BEATING KILLER EPIDEMIC

HIV/AIDS

Made-in-B.C. strategy sets 90-90-90 goal

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Dr. Julio Montaner, director of B.C.'s Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, says he believes Canada is finally on the path to becoming a global leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS.
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Dr. Julio Montaner is optimistic about the future.

For the first time in nearly a decade of constantly being rebuffed by federal officials at home, Montaner, director of B.C.'s Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, says he has finally received the vindication he had long hoped for but had started to doubt would ever become reality, thanks to a new Liberal government.

To mark World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, Dr. Jane Philpott, the newly appointed federal health minister, formally endorsed for the first time the UNAIDS 90-90-90 target for Canada, a strategy to end AIDS by 2030 based on Montaner's internationally recognized HIV treatment-as-prevention strategy (TasP).

"I've been smiling ever since," he told Metro. "This is the culmination of two decades of work, the culmination of a dark decade where we were sabotaged by the federal government … I cannot begin to describe the difference between the dark decade that just finished and the sunny days that Justin Trudeau has promised. To me, this is sunny days all the way forward."

It was at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2014 that Montaner first proposed the 90-90-90 target. The strategy calls for 90 per cent of people living with HIV to know their status; 90 per cent of those diagnosed to receive sustained antiretroviral therapy; and 90 per cent of those on treatment to be virally suppressed by 2020.

Montaner believes the target, built on the backbone of his TasP strategy, will spell the ends of AIDS as an epidemic by 2030.

TasP has virtually conquered the disease in B.C., cutting the mortality rate for HIV/AIDS by more than 95 per cent since 1996.

But B.C. has been the only province to formally adopt the strategy.

China, Brazil, France, the United States and several countries in Africa are in the process of emulating the TasP program.

Montaner has written to the federal government about TasP every year since 2006, but he said officials have constantly rejected his calls for the program to be adopted domestically.

"What hurt the most," Montaner said, was the lack of support he received from the Conservative government when he first proposed the 90-90-90 target at the UN.

Although the "made-in-B.C." strategy was embraced globally and endorsed by Ban Ki Moon, Montaner said the Canadian government "was not interested."

The lack of support was especially frustrating, said Montaner, considering that First Nations people in Canada are still disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

While First Nations represent roughly four per cent of the Canadian population, they accounted for 16 per cent of new HIV infections and 21 per cent of new AIDS cases in 2013, he said.

"The fact that we have a huge overrepresentation of HIV/AIDS in First Nations has been a persistent concern of ours," he said. "This is something that I am convinced will be totally different with the new government."

Now that a new government is in power, however, Montaner said he is hopeful for the future of TasP in this country.

During the election campaign, Montaner said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spent an hour visiting his office and learning about his research. While he realizes it's still early days for the new government, Montaner said he is filled with renewed optimism.

Montaner, who is turning 60 next April, said he has often remarked to friends that if Harper would have been re-elected, that it would have robbed him from maximizing his potential contribution in the fight against HIV/AIDS domestically.

"That would have been devastating," he said. "My time is ticking, and the time for those recently infected is also ticking.

"This dramatic change (in government) really bodes well for the future of the epidemic in this country."

INTO THE CAPSULE

A red ribbon

Used as a symbol showing solidarity of people living with HIV/AIDS, the ribbon also represents an opportunity for the B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS to chart a new course of progress after almost 10 years under a restrictive federal government.

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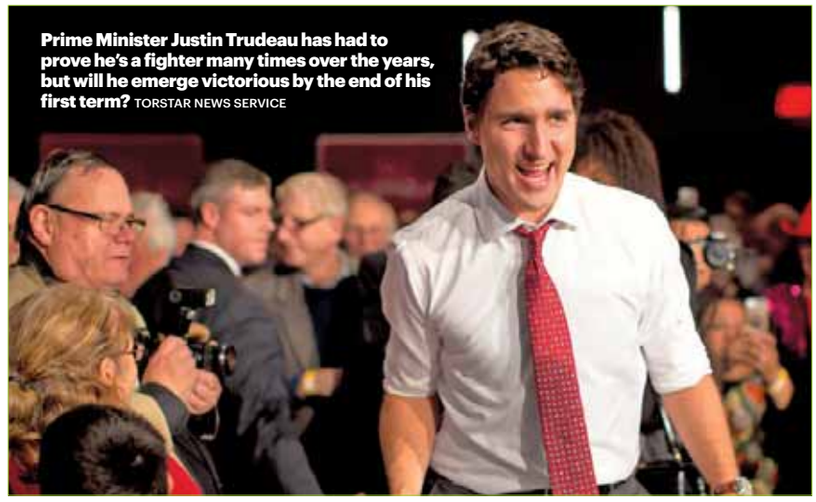

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has had to prove he's a fighter many times over the years, but will he emerge victorious by the end of his first term? TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

POLITICS

'Sunny ways' leader brightens U.S. relations

Melissa Dunne
For Metro Canada

When Justin met Barack it was seen as the start of a beautiful bromance.

While former prime minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President Barack Obama always kept things professional, one got the sense their relationship was more a marriage of convenience than a meeting of the souls.

When Obama and newly elected Prime Minister Justin Trudeau held their first news conference in late November one felt like yelling out: "Get a room, already!"

The frosty relations between America and Canada were clearly heating up with Obama, 54, warmly joking that Trudeau would have to start dyeing his famous brunette mane soon before it started to grey like his own had over the course of his presidency.

In the weeks following the Liberal leader's victory over the Conservative incumbent, much real and virtual ink had been spilled about Trudeau's luxurious locks, his fit physique and beautiful brood. Like Obama early on in his presidency, there was an explosion of stories regarding his DILF-in-chief status. And like Obama, it will be Trudeau's job to get the media and the public to start gushing over his sharp mind instead of his chiselled arms.

He's done it before.

Over his lifetime, Trudeau's many naysayers have often portrayed him as a himbo born with a silver spoon in his mouth. Even glowing Vogue and The New York Times Magazine profiles printed shortly after his election victory both acknowledged his image for many years was that of the "feckless" son of former prime minister Pierre Trudeau.

But, the 44-year-old has proven to be a fighter many times over the years.

During the long 2015 election campaign, Harper tried to dismiss Trudeau as a silly scion who was "just not ready." But, just as he had done in his boxing match with Patrick Brazeau years before, the son of Pierre Trudeau went in as the underdog and emerged as the winner.

In early 2016, Obama was set to take his relationship with Trudeau to the next level by wining and dining him at a state dinner. For Canada's "sunny ways" leader, however, a possible dark cloud lurked on the horizon — the U.S. election. A year into his leadership, Trudeau will have to try to form a new bond with the new president of the United States.

As 2015 wound down it seemed the eventual winner was likely to be either life-long politician Hillary Clinton or the controversy-courting Donald Trump.

It's clear Trudeau will have to prove he can withstand the political punches round after round after round. Will he ultimately have his hand held up in the air in victory, or will he be holding his head in his hands in defeat at the end of his first term? Will he run for re-election and win again like his late father did? The future is not ours to see, but if fils is like père, Trudeau 2.0 will certainly continue to give us something worth watching in 2016 and beyond.

INTO THE CAPSULE

Photo of Trudeau meeting Obama

On Nov. 19, 2015 — after many years of polite, but distant relations — Canada's new prime minister ushered in what many hope will be an era of warmth between the U.S. and Canada as he met with the president for the first time.

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DONALD TRUMP'S CLOWNING GLORY

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL RACE

From silly punchline to contender

Melissa Dunne
For Metro

In the dog days of Summer 2015 Donald Trump's wrinkled, jowly, aged-spotted head, adorned with his infamous comb-over, landed on the cover of Time magazine. In bold white font were three words: "Deal with it."

Soon after his face and ridiculous hairdo landed on the cover of Rolling Stone. Even The New York Times Magazine put him on their front, albeit opting for a cartoon likeness of his visage on a balloon floating upwards.

While print media's influence was dwindling in the face of stiff competition from online news sites, landing the cover of a glossy magazine still could (and clearly did) inflate a person's ego and influence in 2015. Trump didn't appear to mind that the articles inside those magazines' pages were not flattering as the cover stories only seemed to prove an old adage the once-reality television star understood all too well: All publicity is good publicity.

Earlier, The Huffington Post editors called out Trump's circus act deeming it a "sideshow" that was only worthy of the fluffy entertainment pages, not the serious politics section of the liberal-leaning website.

Despite reams of negative press, The Donald still went from being a silly punchline when he first threw his hat in the ring in June to a serious contender for the job of president of the United States as 2015 wound down. By late December, the billionaire blowhard turned politico had pulled off what would have sounded like a bad joke just a year earlier.

Even less funny was how the businessman pulled off such a feat. He managed to land high-profile covers and the top spot in polls for GOP leader by tapping into an undercurrent of racism still flowing in America.

INTO THE CAPSULE

A Trump doll

Once seen as a joke candidate, by the end of 2015 the billionaire reality-TV star had became the front-runner for the Republican nomination. This did not bode well for the political future.

Donald Trump addresses supporters at a campaign rally in Michigan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A BREATH OF FRESH HEIR

FACEBOOK

Famous duo quash common perceptions of millennials

Melissa Dunne
For Metro Canada

In 2015, Paris Hilton was still contributing little to the world, unless you count hosting DJ gigs in Ibiza and Vegas as giving back, that is.

The blonde heiress to the Hilton Hotel fortune was perhaps best known for parlaying her sex tape into fleeting reality-show fame in the early '00s.

History is littered with heirs and heiresses, like the 34-year-old Hilton, who are silly dilettantes that do nothing to make the world a better place. Her contemporaries, Mark Zuckberberg, 31, and his wife Dr. Priscilla Chan, 30, clearly do not want their baby daughter Max turning into Generation Z's Paris Hilton. In December, the influential couple became the latest one-per-centers to pledge to give away the majority of their vast fortune.

In typical millennial fashion at the time, Zuckerberg and Chan posted a cute photo of them gazing at their first-born child on the popular social networking website, Facebook. But, while many millennials were still paying off their student loans and wondering how they would ever afford to buy a house, the founder of Facebook and his pediatrician wife made a pledge few from their generation could match. In an open letter they let little Max and the world know they were going to give away 99 per cent of their Facebook shares (about $45 billion U.S.) during their lifetimes.

According to a Forbes article, it's often said of wealthy American business families: "The first generation makes it, the second generation spends it, and the third generation blows it."

If Chan and Zuckerberg really do give away most of the money they've made, as promised, there will still be a fair amount of dough for Max (and any future heirs) to spend/blow. Still, such a young and powerful couple pledging their fortune not to their heirs, but to society, so early in their lives is a significant sea change.

Back in 2010 billionaire businessmen Warren Buffett and Bill Gates officially started the Giving Pledge in a bid to get wealthy people and their families to give away at least 50 per cent of their wealth to philanthropic or charitable causes during their lifetimes, or in their wills.

At that time many raised their eyebrows and were openly skeptical that one-per-centers would willingly give away their money to help the 99 per cent. The naysayers were wrong.

More than 100 of the world's wealthiest people and families have officially made the Giving Pledge.

Zuckerberg will hopefully influence more rich millennial parents to pause before blindly passing down wealth to those that don't necessarily need or deserve it.

Max Chan Zuckerberg is held by her parents, Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan Zuckerberg.
MARK ZUCKERBERG VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INTO THE CAPSULE

Printout of Zuckerberg's letter

Wealthy parents tend to hoard their riches to pass down to their children. Not Mark Zuckerberg. In celebration of their first child, Max, the co-founder of Facebook and his wife committed to give away 99 per cent of Facebook shares to charitable purposes.

INTO THE CAPSULE

An old-timey cab

Despite the angry protestations of cab drivers, it's increasingly clear the taxi industry isn't going to beat Uber.

UBER TAKING OFF

While people looking for cheap transportation are embracing the Uber app, the taxi industry is not.

As the battle is waged on the streets and in council meeting rooms, it's increasingly clear the sharing economy is winning. Taxi companies are even beginning to redesign their apps.

There may come a time when we don't look to conventional businesses to provide us with our services. Maybe in a few years we'll have several app-based transportation companies.

SARAH KESTER/FOR METRO

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, December 28, 2015
THE TIME CAPSULE EDITION

WAIT. SHOULD THIS NEWSPAPER ITSELF BE IN A TIME CAPSULE?

With so much free information available online, the survival of print media is in doubt. We tapped two veteran newsmen for their views on the future of news.

> **I think newspaper readership is strongest among people who are soon going to be dead.**

John Gordon Miller

Author, Yesterday's News: Why Canada's Daily Newspapers are Failing Us

Newspapers are built on a business model that's no longer sustainable. It's not that some people don't prefer newspapers. People who work for them think they're irreplaceable. It's that they can't afford to print and distribute them. Newspapers have failed in Canada and the U.S., and I expect that to continue and accelerate. I think there will always be a New York Times print newspaper. But for a Canadian newspaper in any big city, I'd say expecting it to survive 25 years would be optimistic.

There are two problems: Declining readership and declining advertising. When the Internet came along, newspapers really underestimated it. If they all got together, they could have become the biggest classified advertiser on the Internet. But they let it go, and the classifieds that used to be 20 or 30 pages are now one or two. It's all online.

I think newspaper readership is strongest among people who are soon going to be dead. In the next 20 or 25 years, readership is going into the ground. Literally.

Where young people go for their information has been revolutionized by the Internet. They're not going to suddenly develop a newspaper habit. I don't think the newspapers that have migrated to the web are in tune enough with younger readers. So the future of news is really in specialized websites like iPolitics. Among younger people it's "Why should I trust some old white guy to filter my news for me?"

Something very important will be lost. You have to tell the web what you're looking for. But when you're reading the paper, you can turn the page and see something you never thought of being interested in.

We've already seen steps towards newspapers only existing online or printing once a week — those are no longer daily newspapers.

If newspapers continue, they will be free ones like Metro. People always gravitate to something that's free.

Jim Poling

Managing Editor, the Hamilton Spectator

Print news is more responsible, easily accessible and tactile. Opening a newspaper is like smelling fresh air. You turn the page and all your senses come alive. It's a new fount of knowledge with every page turned.

Print is part of us. If all somebody did was read one newspaper front to back every day, they'd be the smartest person in the room.

A newspaper has no "Sorry, this browser's out of date," and no message saying "Sorry, this plug-in's not working." I know when I turn a page, I get a guaranteed, instant surprise.

The majority of the information people want to read is produced in newsrooms. The good content you read on the Internet is stolen and ripped off and repurposed by other entities. I tell young journalists, don't worry about the platform. Chase the content. Produce good information, and the rest will take care of itself.

Print news has a foreseeable shelf life. Is it declining? Perhaps parts of it are. What's really going on is an advertising change. If the advertising model was as robust as it was 20 years ago, we wouldn't be having this discussion.

I hope people want to pay for news. We provide an incredible and important service in addition to entertainment and comfort and knowledge.

The problem is that we've raised a generation of people who have been told they don't have to pay for their media in any form. Our sin, as newspapers, was coming late to that party. The web came along and we threw all our content on it. It was like giving everybody free beer. And after three free beers we said, "Hey, now you've got to pay for your beer." I don't think so.

Many people (in the news business) are struggling. There's no doubt we're going through some structural change. But people will get to a point where they do see value in what the news industry produces. And at least some people will pay for that.

> **The majority of the content people want is made in newsrooms. Produce good information, and the rest will take care of itself.**

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Into the vault goes the offhand, off-colour comment

Goodbye to the offhand comment, the minor infraction and the ill-conceived joke. We're witnessing the end of the small and inconsequential act.

Consider the fake indigenous headdress beloved by white Halloweeners. In it goes to Metro's time capsule, because you can't get away with it — or anything — anymore.

In our hyper-monitored, hyper-public, hyper-politically correct and hyper-critical world, anything you say or do could potentially go viral. Low-level racism is highlighted, and condemned in a way previously reserved for more overt discrimination. If you dare express a less than perfectly progressive (in the eyes of God knows who) opinion, your words could screw you.

Halloween is the perfect example, and nowhere better made this year than at Yale. Students railed against a teacher who tried to advocate for nuance in costume condemnation, instead of top-down rules for what to wear. The lecturer only had to write one email, and watch the New Yorker, the Atlantic, and the New York Times dissect her words, and then, later, report on her resignation.

The controversy became, as many now do, wrapped up in the idea of safe spaces, a new tool being used to silence some voices in the service of the new acceptable norms.

Small transgressions are increasingly public. Post a photo on Facebook, or have a friend post a photo on Facebook, and who knows where it might end up. That image of you posing disrespectfully at a national memorial gets uploaded and the next thing you know, your moment of silliness is being recounted as a prime example of how online rage can ruin your life in a book called So You've Been Publicly Shamed.

Drunken antics during a live TV broadcast (à la FHRITP guys), could echo through social media and cost your job, reputation or self-respect.

On one hand, it's a very good thing to stop reducing whole cultures to imitations of Pocahontas. The small ripples of insensitivity rest on the surface of a much deeper sea of exploitation, inequality and racism we have yet to solve.

But mistakes of the insensitive or racist variety are inevitably made by otherwise decent people — and the constant policing of opinions does not mean unsavoury ones disappear. They only go into hiding, until they find a more acceptable avenue of expression. Like, say, a presidential candidate. Or a migration crisis that can easily be twisted to buoy xenophobia.

Either way, I don't think we can win a fight against the rise of perpetually threatening consequences to everything you say or do. We must now live carefully, and let live.

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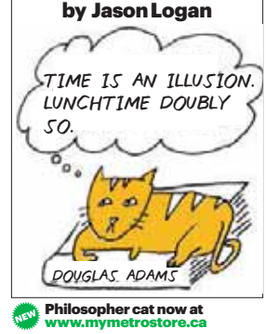

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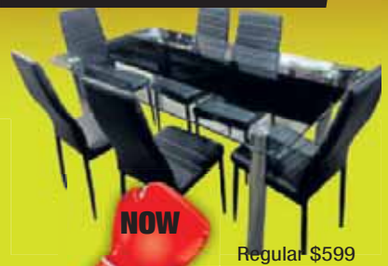

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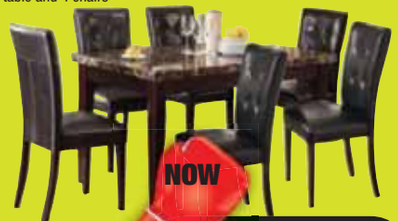

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THE TIME CAPSULE EDITION

THE YEAR WE REALLY DID BREAK

THE GENDER BARRIER

GENDER

When it came to transgender rights, 2015 was a game-changer

Devon Scoble
For Metro Canada

Eddie Redmayne was nominated for a 2016 Golden Globe for his role in The Danish Girl. HANDOUT

Imagine a world divided by strict gender codes, where men and women are born into their socially mandated roles and the binary is policed by gendered pronouns — 'he' and 'she' for some instead of 'they' for all. Imagine a world where sex-specific washrooms are the norm, where trans individuals face harassment just for being themselves.

In the future, this will sound ridiculous, but in 2015, it's reality.

Change will come, perhaps sporadically. This year The New York Times started using the gender-neutral honorific Mx. for individuals who neither identify as male or female, but the move has been largely ignored outside LGBTQ and copyediting circles.

In 2015, The Washington Post also officially accepted 'they' as a singular pronoun.

But some cultural shifts happen faster than we can describe them, and while debates over honorifics and pronouns have failed to capture public interest, transgender issues were front and centre this year when Bruce Jenner became her true self: Caitlyn, a beautiful, media-savvy woman.

By no means the first trans spokesperson, Jenner was the most prominent and her transition sparked an important social conversation.

Trans stories like Jenner's received unprecedented media coverage in 2015. Actor Jeffrey Tambor won a Golden Globe for portraying a trans woman on the television show Transparent, and as the year closed, Eddie Redmayne was nominated for a 2016 Golden Globe for his role in The Danish Girl.

In the film, Redmayne played Lili Elbe, one of the first people to undergo sex reassignment surgery. And Laverne Cox, who played transgender character Sophia Burset on the prison drama Orange Is the New Black, won a Daytime Emmy for her documentary Laverne Cox Presents: The T Word.

These awards and nominations helped promote trans stories, but tellingly, only one of the three actors — Cox — was actually transgender.

Despite the positive trans coverage, the real world wasn't always easy for trans individuals.

In February 2015, Theron Meyer, a 20-year-old Simon Fraser University student who identified as trans feminine, told Metro of the humiliations she faced having to choose between the men's and women's washroom.

"They look at me, they exit the washroom and then look at me again to make sure what my gender is," said Meyer. "That's very ostracizing. I think a lot of people don't experience that, and don't understand the degree to which that is harmful to my livelihood and to other trans people's livelihood."

INTO THE CAPSULE

Gender neutral bathroom sign

Transgender rights were in the spotlight in 2015; from TV shows and movies like Transparent, Orange is the New Black and The Danish Girl, to Caitlyn Jenner's sit-down interview with Diane Sawyer and Aydian Dowling almost winning Men's Health 2015's Ultimate Guy Search. But for all the glitz, it was a simple sign — seen in everyday life — that symbolized the change most of all.

ALTERNATE SUBMISSIONS

3 TRANSGENDER TRAILBLAZERS OF 2015

Harriette Cunningham

Cunningham's birth certificate read male, but Cunningham never doubted it was wrong. In 2015, the 12-year-old from Comox Valley, B.C. was fighting to have gender designations removed from official documents in British Columbia.

Aydian Dowling

Dowling didn't win the Men's Health 2015 "Ultimate Guy Search," but the trans activist, model and bodybuilder did win the magazine's readers' poll, raising trans awareness — and pulses — around the world.

Caitlyn Jenner

Criticized for her wealth, privilege and surprisingly traditional politics, Jenner was still instrumental in bringing transgender issues to a larger audience. In 2015, Metro columnist Emma Teitel called her "a walking, collagen-injected catch-22... damned for speaking out and damned for keeping quiet; damned for being an inferior activist and damned for winning awards based on her activism."

THE LAST NAKED PLAYBOY ISSUE

PAPER PORN

Readers really will buy mag for articles now

Brian Gasparek
For Metro Canada

The fleshy, vixen-graced cover of the Jan/Feb 2016 edition of Playbook is the very last issue of the magazine to ever feature a naked woman in its pages. And that last naked woman happens to be the most popular naked woman in the history of printed pornography.

It may be mind-boggling to think we lived in an age where our carnal urge to look at sex and nudity couldn't be satisfied by the click of a mouse or a tap of a tablet at any time during the day.

Prior to the endless assortment of free porn online, one of the only ways that the consumers of yesteryears could get their hands on pornography was to buy it in magazine form at convenience stores or through snail-mail subscriptions. How weird is it that porn once cost money and you had to exert some effort to get it?

The godfather of porno mags was Playboy. Dating back to 1953, Playboy was the first publication of its kind to release a monthly magazine filled with naked women, sandwiched between a variety of articles that men would swear up and down was their reason for buying it.

Up until the end of this year, Playboy was the marquee porno mag to satisfy all skin-gawking urges. It maintained a level of class and quality (for porn) over its copycat competition, like Penthouse. At its peak point of success, Playboy had 5.6 million monthly readers... but free internet porn killed its reign.

The high-speed revolution is responsible for bringing us the wealth of information — and instantly accessible porno — that we're familiar with today. Streaming sites and instant downloads have squashed the need for anybody to ever spend money on a magazine full of naked women again.

Why would we?

This fall, Playboy waved its white flag and declared that it was officially out of the nudie game. It announced that starting in 2016, the magazine would focus on quality written content to win over new readers. But not before this one last historic naked issue.

For its final cover girl, Playboy paid tribute to its most iconic nude model of all time, Canadian actress Pamela Anderson. Anderson helped make the magazine a gargantuan success in four different decades, allowing it to be the official outlet to share her once highly desired body with the world.

She appeared naked in Playboy a record-setting 15 times, 14 of which she also graced the cover. But those days are now gone forever.

We thought it was important to share this naked artifact in our time capsule because it not only represents how 2015 marked the end of Playboy's reign as the godfather of porn, it also witnessed the demise of an archaic medium in the skin industry.

So long porno-Playboy!

INTO THE CAPSULE

Jan/Feb 2016 Playboy Magazine

The magazine that helped usher in the sexual revolution in the 1950s and '60s by bringing nudity into living rooms, announced in 2015 that it will no longer run photos of completely naked women. Released on Dec. 1, 2015, this final edition featured Canadian actress Pamela Anderson.

Marilyn Monroe on the December 1953 debut issue of the gentleman's magazine. HANDOUT

WORDS FOR THE FUTURE

This fall, Playboy declared that it was officially out of the nudie game.

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STAR WARS

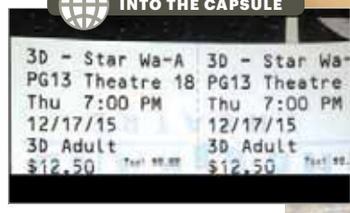
BLOCKBUSTER MOVIE BREAKS RECORDS AND THE RULES

The much anticipated seventh installment of the star wars trilogy blasted its way into theatres in December 2015, setting box office records in Canada and around the world.

Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures Canada said the newest movie in the epic space drama reached $18.6 million in ticket during its opening weekend.

Studio estimates on Dec. 20, 2015, suggested the film brought in a galactic $238 million over the weekend, making it the biggest North American debut of all time, and destroy the previous opening record set by Jurassic World, which drew $208.8 million in the summer of 2015.

INTO THE CAPSULE



What's more, some were suggesting the film, directed by J.J. Abram, would usher a change in the way blockbuster movies are cast in Hollywood, because of Star Wars female lead and the diversity of its cast. METRO/ CANADIAN PRESS

With a female lead and diverse cast, The Force Awakens sets new rules for smash hits. HANDOUT

TIME CAPSULE

Artifact:
Adele's 25 album

Why it belongs here:
Hello indeed, Adele! The soulful Brit debuted her long-awaited album, 25, and it gives a huge year-end boost to the struggling music industry. In a time of illegal downloads and pirated music, the album sold a whopping 5 million copies in just three weeks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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GOOD RIDDANCE, CABLE BILLS

CRTC

'Pick and pay' is the new way to watch television

Brian Gasparek
For Metro Canada

As we get closer to a future that features every TV show, movie or special that we're interested in watching being instantly accessible on cheap streaming services like Netflix, iTunes, Amazon and Shomi, it's baffling to think about the way we've been forced to consume television for all of these years, and the costs we've been charged for it.

Until 2015, we've been watching TV by renting digital cable boxes and ordering expensive channel packages through one of a few giant Canadian cable providers. These providers have had complete control over the package costs and what channels are included in each of them.

Although the providers have been wise to the specific channels that we love to watch the most, they haven't let us pay for just those alone. Instead, they've taken our beloved channels, combined them with a bunch of less desirable ones, and have been making us pay a bundled rate for everything together.

If we don't buy the bundle, we can't have the channels.

The worst part is that several of our favourite channels have been featured in separate bundles and, if we want access, we have to buy them all.

Many of us have been paying for more than 500 channels in our homes, when we really watch only a dozen of them regularly.

But thanks to our federal broadcast regulator, the CRTC, the end of this ridiculousness was announced this year.

After fielding endless complaints from disgruntled couch potatoes who were sick of paying for unwanted content, as well as becoming aware of the popularity of cheaper TV options like online streaming, the CRTC laid the smackdown on our cable providers' monopoly this past spring.

The CRTC told our providers that starting in 2016, consumers will be given the right to "pick and pay" for only the channels that we actually want to watch.

Once we've purchased a cheap, price-regulated basic cable package from the providers, we will be able to pay for channels individually, like a digital à la carte menu. The old channel bundles will still be an option, but only if we feel like shelling out for them. It's a truly glorious time, from the consumer's perspective.

We chose to include this cable bill inside our time capsule because it represents how 2015 finally changed the archaic Canadian cable industry as well as the cost of TV watching forever.

In the past people would pay for 500 channels but watch only a few. This will no longer be the case. ISTOCK

INTO THE CAPSULE

A cable bill

This year, the CRTC decided that Canadian consumers will no longer have to pay for expensive traditional cable packages and will now have the right to "pick and pay" for only the individual channels that they want to purchase, beginning in 2016.

ALTERNATIVE SPECIMEN

Coaxial Cable

A growing number of Canadians were ditching their traditional television subscriptions, according to a CBC research study. The May 2015 report said more than half of Canadians currently without cable television have "cut the cord."

Why important

"With the prevalence of TV content on the Internet and Netflix, Canadians are seeing less need to have a TV subscription," the report said. Sixteen per cent of Canadians don't pay for a traditional TV service, up from 12 per cent three years ago, the report said. "We consider it a big jump," said Mark Allen, senior director of corporate research at CBC/Radio-Canada in Ottawa.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Your essential daily news
THE TIME CAPSULE EDITION
Monday, December 28, 2015

WHEELING AND DEALING

GM BUILDING FUTURE CORE

NHL

Canucks continue to overhaul roster under Benning

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Jim Benning made it clear from his opening press conference.

As the new general manager of the Vancouver Canucks, he was willing to approach veteran players to waive their no-trade clauses. And he's been true to his word, working the phones and making numerous high-profile, even blockbuster trades in his tenure here, which isn't even two years old.

It started about six weeks into the job when he shipped Ryan Kesler to Anaheim, and continued into this summer when he moved defenceman Kevin Bieksa — also to Anaheim — and goalie Eddie Lack, who didn't have a no-trade or no-movement clause but was immensely popular with fans for his play on the ice and his personality off it.

The Lack trade also cemented 35-year-old Ryan Miller, in his second year of a three-year, $18-million contract, and Jacob Markstrom, largely unproven at the NHL level, as the Canucks' goalie tandem for the foreseeable future.

But since Benning, and president of hockey operations Trevor Linden, took over from Mike Gillis in the spring of 2014, it's been clear the Canucks are in a state of transition with their roster.

It's been their goal, as they look to build a new core group, to infuse younger players into the lineup while trying to remain competitive in the Western Conference.

Last year, Bo Horvat, Vancouver's first-round pick from 2013, entered the league as a 19-year-old centre. This season, Jared McCann and Jake Virtanen, both 19 years old and the first draft picks of the Benning-Linden era, and 22-year-old rookie defenceman Ben Hutton made the team out of training camp.

While the Canucks made the playoffs last season, there isn't much in the way of optimism for a post-season berth in 2015-16. They've struggled mightily to score since the start of November, and the losses have subsequently piled up.

The post-season is still an attainable goal right now, mostly because the Canucks play in a weakened Pacific Division.

However, it's possible that by the NHL trade deadline on Feb. 29, the Canucks may be fading in that race, which could present a scenario where the organization goes into sell mode in order to further fill their prospect talent pool and recoup more draft picks.

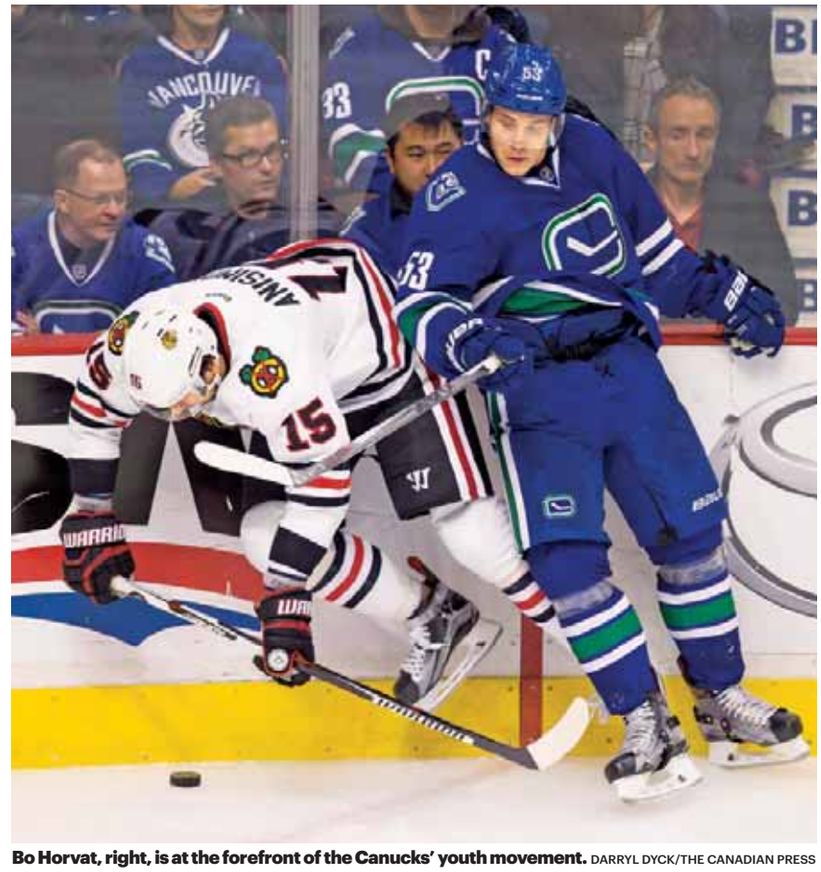
The Canucks have two pending unrestricted free agents of note: currently injured defenceman Dan Hamhuis (he suffered a facial fracture on Dec. 9 and had to undergo surgery, and could be out for two months) and forward Radim Vrbata.

Both have garnered the odd murmur of trade speculation here and there this season.

Both players, if they remain unsigned by the deadline, could be potential trade targets for teams in playoff or Stanley Cup contention and looking to add either a proven scorer or otherwise reliable defenceman as a rental piece.

Vrbata does have a limited no-trade clause. Hamhuis also has a no-trade clause.

Depending where the Canucks are in the standings come February, Benning may be working the phone even harder leading up to the trade deadline.



Bo Horvat, right, is at the forefront of the Canucks' youth movement. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

INTO THE CAPSULE

Jim Benning's phone

The telephone represents the devices used to facilitate numerous trades since Benning became general manager of the Vancouver Canucks in May of 2014.

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Jays fever took a hold of fans as the team advanced to the playoffs for the first time since 1993. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

AFTER YEARS OF FUTILITY

BLUE JAYS BRING BACK PASSION

BASEBALL

Team boasts major-league best 891 runs

Vincent Man
Metro | Toronto

The big, ugly monkey that had made its home on the back of the Toronto Blue Jays for the last 22 years has vanished.

And the team's punishing bats can be thanked for that.

Well aware that it had the dubious distinction of the team with the longest absence from the playoffs, the franchise desperately searched for a way in for the first time since 1993.

In reality, the Blue Jays' magical 2015 season began the previous November. First, general manager Alex Anthopoulos paid above market value to sign catcher Russell Martin. He followed that up by dealing fan favourite Brett Lawrie and acquiring all-star third baseman Josh Donaldson from the Oakland Athletics — a swap that signalled he had his eyes squarely on the post-season.

Anthopoulos was not done there, however. With the team not quite over the hump, the GM orchestrated a number of game-changing trades in July. In the days leading up to the trade deadline, the team acquired slugging shortstop Troy Tulowitzki, veteran reliever LaTroy Hawkins, speedy outfield Ben Revere, setup man Mark Lowe and, the pièce de résistance, former Cy Young award-winner David Price.

The Blue Jays cleared their farm system of their prized pitching prospects but they also pieced together an all-star cast.

Sensing the shift from playing for the future to playing for today, fans began to support the Jays in full force. Rogers Centre, which had seemingly been only half full since the team's glory years, instantly boasted sold-out crowds. And paying customers were not disappointed.

The Jays, who were hovering around the .500 mark at the time of the blockbusters, quickly climbed the standings with opposing pitching staffs left licking their wounds. The batting lineup anchored by Donaldson, Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion finished the season with a major-league best 891 runs.

Toronto's pitching also held its own. Price went 9-1, while starter Marco Estrada (13-8, 3.13 ERA) and 20-year-old closer Roberto Osuna (20 saves) emerged as key arms.

The Jays won the AL East with a 93-69 record and defeated the Texas Rangers in the ALDS — but not before an epic comeback. They lost the first two games in the series, and then forced a deciding fifth game after a pair of their own wins.

The emotionally charged Game 5 saw the Jays trail 3-2 in the seventh inning when Bautista belted a three-run home run, followed by a bat flip of the tape-measure variety. They won the game 6-3.

The Blue Jays ran out of magic in the ALCS when they were beaten in six games by the Kansas City Royals, the eventual World Series champs.

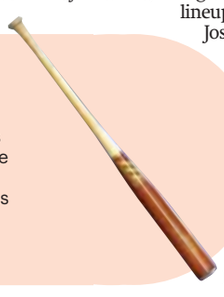
It could be argued the Jays are in position to repeat their winning ways in 2016 with many key players expected to return. At the very least, they will have a large following — both new and old.

With everyone invested in this team having experienced playoff baseball, failure is no longer an option and winning a championship is surely the next step in the master plan.

INTO THE CAPSULE

Jose Bautista's bat

After the Jays slugging right-fielder hit his instantly iconic home run in Game 5 of the 2015 ALDS, he tossed his bat with a mixture of fury and pure joy. The "bat flip" was the moment that underscored 2015, the year the Jays began to act like winners.



WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

PLAYERS RISE UP AMIDST CORRUPTION

Laurie Wilson
Metro | Toronto

On the eve of the 2015 Women's World Cup, the 24 best soccer-playing nations combatted corruption of the sport's governing body in the best way: They played the game.

Ten days prior, 14 officials were indicted by the FBI on money laundering, wire fraud and racketeering charges. The re-elected Sepp Blatter stepped down as FIFA head.

First-time hosts Canada opened with a 1-0 win over China in the opener at Commonwealth Stadium on June 6. Christine Sinclair converted from the penalty spot in the 92nd-minute kicking off the party.

Still, an issue with the playing surfaces remained. The artificial turfs reportedly boosted temperatures at field level, sucking in heat and focusing the sun on players.

Despite going undefeated through the Round of 16, the added glare of the national spotlight seemed to do nothing but stunt the host team's attack.

John Herdman's squad showed a lack of cohesion. Four goals in five matches signalled trouble ahead of the quarter-final against England. That lack of offence ensured Lauren Sesselmann's quarter-final defensive gaffe against England would stand as the defining moment for the Reds. Sinclair's goal was not enough for Canada to avoid elimination with a 2-1 loss.

England carried that bad luck to its own 2-1 defeat in the semi-final against Japan.

The U.S. held serve with a 2-0 semi-final win over Germany. The Americans would get the chance to avenge their shootout loss to Japan in the 2011 World Cup. Carli Lloyd completed her treble at the 16-minute mark, capping off the hat-trick with an audacious mid-field strike. The Americans cruised to a 5-2 win and celebrated their third World Cup championship and first since 1999.

By a number of measurements the 2015 Women's World Cup was being considered the best ever just over a month after FIFA corruption threatened to overshadow the proceedings.

Kadeisha Buchanan chases down the ball during first half FIFA Women's World Cup quarter-final soccer action against England in Vancouver. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

INTO THE CAPSULE

Piece of artificial turf from Women's World Cup

The 2015 Women's World Cup marked a turning point for FIFA and soccer in general. The event offset the dismantling and restructuring of world soccer's governing body, putting the focus back where it belongs — on the game.

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RECIPE Leftover Turkey Pot Pies

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Use up your leftover turkey and make an easy dinner with a little store-bought puff pastry.

Ready in
Prep time: 60 minutes
Serves 6

Ingredients
- 4 Tbsp butter
- 1 1/2 lbs cremini mushrooms, sliced
- 2 stalks celery, sliced
- 2 cups leftover turkey, cubed
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp fresh thyme
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 cup low sodium vegetable broth
- 1/2 cup light cream
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 package frozen puff pastry (397 grams)
- 1 egg

Directions
1. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
2. In a large pot or Dutch oven, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion, garlic, mushrooms, celery, thyme and pepper and cook 12 to 15 minutes until vegetables soften. Add cooked turkey and stir.
3. Sprinkle flour over and stir. Let cook for a minute or two to get rid of the raw flour taste. Stir in the stock, cream and frozen peas. Simmer for a couple minutes. Taste to check seasoning.
4. On a lightly floured countertop, roll out your puff pastry until it is 1/4-inch thick. Cut into squares that will cover your ramekins and flop over the edges a bit.
5. Ladle vegetable mixture into individual ramekins. Place a little pastry lid over each. Whisk an egg with just a bit of water in a small bowl. Brush the top of each pie with the egg wash. Take a knife and score slits into the pastry tops. Place the ramekins on a cookie sheet and bake for 25 to 30 minutes until the crusts are golden. Allow to rest and cool for at least 15 minutes before serving. They will be hot, hot, hot.

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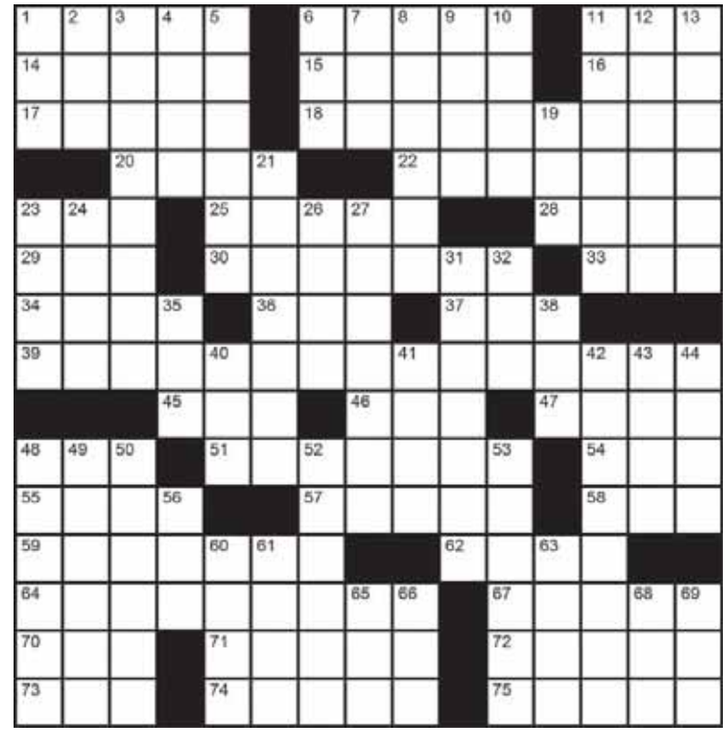
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "Deck the Halls": "_ the ancient Yule tide carol..."
6. _ _ charge (Held the helm)
11. "_ Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"
14. Hawk's habitation, variantly
15. Composed
16. Edinburgh 'uh-uh'
17. Was inclined, like Pisa
18. Christmas dessert
20. Exam
22. Exclaimed "Oh, fiddlesticks!"
23. Couple
25. Purpose
28. Better half
29. "Happy Xmas (_ Is Over)"
30. Temples of tiers
33. Said 'hello' like Rocky
34. Solo song
36. Semi
37. Eggs come in one [abbr.]
39. Extra little Christmas gift: 2 wds.
45. Suffix with 'Velvet'
46. 'L' of L.A.
47. Ms. Remini
48. Not her
51. Garden structures for shade
54. Ms. Gabor, when doubled
55. Not worth _ _ (Without value)
57. Put forth
58. Rock gr., with Led
59. Most nervous
62. Cab
64. "O Little Town of _"
67. Decrease
70. Goose: French
71. Turn while driving
72. Banish
73. Cadillac's lettered sedan
74. Noblemen
75. Tenet

DOWN
1. Puny phone
2. Particular loaf
3. 1734: "Christmas _" by Johann Sebastian Bach
4. Queue
5. Abates, perhaps as a Winter storm: 2 wds.
6. Panda logo org.
7. ETA part, briefly
8. _ up, as cars
9. "How sweet _ _!" - Jackie Gleason
10. Amsterdam's locale, briefly
11. Sort of: 3 wds.
12. Bring along: 2 wds.
13. Ranked, as top tennis players
19. Picture-taker, briefly
21. Russian empress
23. "'_ the night before Christmas..."
24. Tip to 'hog' (Wild swine)
26. Opposin'
27. Skier's eyes protection
31. Partakes in charades: 2 wds.
32. After-R trio
35. Champion
38. Baltimore Ravens org.
40. Beer barrel
41. Boo-hoos
42. Charles Dickens: A Christmas Carol character
43. Simplicity
44. Queen's 'Bohemian', e.g.
48. Storage for a derby or fedora
49. Santa's sleigh spotter's shout!: 3 wds.
50. Del _ (Belonging to a famous canned fruit brand)
52. Plectrum-played instrument
53. Closed, as the Christmas card envelope
56. Informally seat theatre-goers
60. Additional
61. _ _ good example
63. Hugs and kisses on a greeting card
65. Moray _
66. Santa's wife, _. Claus
68. Tree type
69. Actor Stephen

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You don't have to do anything special or go anywhere new to get what you need — those things will find you if you stay put. Let others run around and tire themselves while you relax.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Have the courage to follow your dreams. If you reach for the sky you will achieve something truly amazing. It's time to get over your self-doubt and shine like a star again.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Things will get even better when Mercury, your ruler, changes signs towards the end of the week. Social activities and travel plans are under excellent stars at the moment, so get out and about and have fun.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Others say you're aiming too high but you're determined to prove them wrong. There is nothing you like more than a challenge but don't get so competitive that you start treating friends as rivals.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Everything you do affects what happens in the future. Also, as you think today so you will be tomorrow, and how you act tomorrow will build your future prosperity.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Before you go telling everyone what they should be doing maybe you should wait a bit. Towards the end of the week you may see the situation in a very different light.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If you are the kind of Libra who enjoys organizing social events and getting involved in causes you'll enjoy yourself today. Even if you're not that kind of Libra, aim to be one.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You'll go out of your way to help people in need. Are you trying to make up for things you should have done earlier in the year? It doesn't really matter. Good works are valuable no matter the motivation.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You need to get serious about money and what happens next will force you to save. But you also need to find new sources of income, so keep your eyes and ears open.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Make an effort to get your message across over the next few days, because once Mercury, planet of communication, leaves your birth sign next weekend that won't be so easy.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Allow your imagination to roam and don't reject ideas because they seem far-fetched. You have the power to make things happen but they won't just happen as if by magic. Visualize your goals then act decisively.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Others may say you're acting irrationally but so what? Most likely they are simply jealous because they are stuck in the past and don't share your ability to look ahead.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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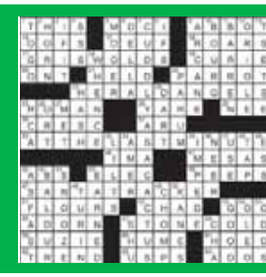

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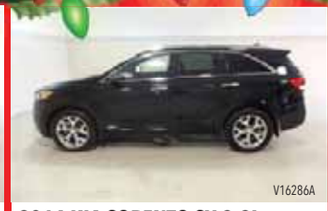

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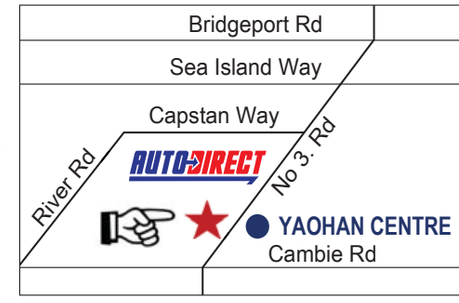

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